

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 260 without my signature.

While I support improving access to health care services, including mental health services, I cannot support this bill as it would increase General Fund pressure at a time of continuing budget challenges. Mental health services are already included in the Medi-Cal rates for federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics. Allowing separate billing for mental health services would lead to increased costs that our state cannot afford.

For this reason, I am returning this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger